

THE RUTHERFORD Report

THE NEWSLETTER OF SECOND DISTRICT SUPERVISOR JANICE RUTHERFORD

April 2013



Animal Control Officer Sherry Beardsley snuggles with a pet during the inaugural Mega Pet Adoption Event at Yucaipa Regional Park. Read this edition of The Rutherford Report for more information about County Animal Care and Control.

Have a heart that never
hardens, a temper that
never tires, a touch that
never hurts.

—Charles Dickens

Animal Control More than Cats and Dogs

Dogs and cats come to mind when most of us think of animal control services, but the San Bernardino County Animal Care and Control Division (ACC) certainly isn't bound by that stereotype.

In addition to taking in thousands of stray and abandoned cats and dogs last year, ACC also provided shelter for 231 other animals including 52 horses, 13 turtles, three snakes,

an emu, five peafowl, two parrots, 12 pigs, three sheep, and dozens of other non-canine, non-feline animals.

ACC Division Chief Brian Cronin said the economic slump might have spiked the number of non-traditional animals at County shelters. "Many of the residents don't have the resources available to take care of these animals anymore," he said.

ANIMAL CONTROL, PAGE 3

Volunteers Bring Historic Home to Life

A historic Rancho Cucamonga home would have fallen to a bulldozer's blade in the 1970s if it hadn't been for volunteers dedicated to preserving the century-old home for the community to enjoy.

"History in a book is just words," said Kathy Holguin, who serves as Chair of Las Guías—a branch of a volunteer group formed to support the John Rains House. "When you see the inside of this house, you get an idea of what it was really like back then."

The John Rains House was built in 1860 near the present-day intersection of Hemlock Street and Vineyard Avenue.

John Rains found his way to what would later become San Bernardino County in the mid-1800s. He married the daughter of a Chino rancher and later inherited 13,000 acres known as Rancho Cucamonga. He and his wife, Maria, moved to their new brick home in 1861, but John had little time to enjoy the sprawling hacienda because he was murdered a year later while traveling to Los Angeles.

Maria remarried and continued living in the home until it was purchased at a foreclosure sale in 1871. The home changed hands over the years and was slated for demolition in 1969 to make way for a mobile home park.

RAINS, PAGE 2

Rancho Business Sparked Popular TV Show

A heart-wrenching scene Cory Chalmers witnessed while working as a paramedic in 1995 led to the creation of a now-thriving Rancho Cucamonga-based business and to the production of a television show that sparked a national discussion about compulsive hoarding.

Chalmers had considered starting a business focused on cleaning homes soiled by gruesome illnesses, accidents or deaths because he'd encountered quite a few as a paramedic and he always worried about how the cleanups would affect already distraught families.

Then a suicide call changed everything.

A man had shot himself in the head in his bathroom.

When Chalmers arrived, blood obscured the bathroom tile, and the grief-stricken wife was soaked in blood from clinging to her husband's body.

"That one made me go home and talk to my wife," Chalmers said. "I told her 'We are going to save these people from having to go through two traumas.'"

Chalmers, who lived in Rancho Cucamonga at the time, named his then-garage-based business Steri-Clean and began sending letters to insurance companies, police departments, and others to inform them about his bio-hazard cleaning services. He handled the grisly cleanups himself for the first couple of years. Then he expanded to include cleaning homes crammed with tons and tons of stuff by compulsive hoarders.

Chalmers enlisted his wife and family friends to help but soon realized he needed a crew to keep up with all the business coming his way.

When a production company working with A&E contacted him about the possibility of a reality show based around his bio-hazard cleanups, Chalmers gave the OK,

STERI-CLEAN, PAGE 4

RAINS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

At that point the house was abandoned and in horrible condition because transients had ripped out many of the wooden fixtures to burn in the home's fireplaces.

In April 1970, Cucamonga Junior High School English teacher Maxine Strane and her students led the charge to save the home. They approached the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors to preserve the historic home, but the Board was concerned about the cost and whether the County could afford to buy, restore and maintain it.

Strane's students started a letter-writing campaign and eventually raised \$6,400 to support the project. In addition, community members agreed to volunteer to restore and care for the home. Seeing the outpouring of community support, the Board agreed to buy the home and make it a part of the County Museum.

Residents formed the Casa de Rancho Cucamonga Historical Society in 1972 and got the home listed on the National Register of Historic Places, which opened the door for grants and other resources.

Like others who have volunteered at the home, Dixie Graham drove by it many times before she finally stopped by for one of the annual Christmas tours hosted by the auxiliary group Las Guias—The Guides.

"I always wanted to go in, but then, I always had things to do because I had young kids," she said.

Graham joined Las Guias and went on to serve as the group's president for a few years.

"I have always appreciated what this area looked like before all of the streets and tract homes came in," she said.

Volunteers spend many hours decorating the home for the annual Christmas tours. They guide people through the home while dressed in period-specific clothing, and they do 19th century activities such as candle and brick making, which guests can take part in as well.

"We try and make it not just about words by acting things out," Holguin said.

Holguin and Graham said they love sharing stories about the home with guests and being part of an organization dedicated to preserving their community's history.

"You'll find that people who volunteer have an emotional buy-in to wherever they are volunteering," Holguin said. "I don't know if things like this would happen if you didn't have that emotional attachment."

The John Rains House is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Visit www.sbcounty.gov/museum/branches/rains.htm to learn more.

ANIMAL CONTROL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ACC officers have found numerous emaciated horses whose owners illegally left them to fend for themselves, and, unfortunately, many of these once majestic creatures were euthanized because of their poor health.

ACC serves all of our County's unincorporated communities and contracts services with the cities of Big Bear Lake, Highland, and Yucaipa. It also provides shelter services for the City of Rialto.

On average, ACC receives about 500 inquiries either by phone or in person every day. These requests include, among other things, people searching for lost pets, residents reporting stray and potentially dangerous animals, and pet owners seeking low-cost spay or neuter services. Many callers are referred to other animal control agencies.

Most of the animals taken in by ACC are brought to the Devore Animal Shelter located at 19777 Shelter Way in San Bernardino.

The shelter, which took in 16,047 animals last calendar year, is required to accept all animals that come from ACC's service area. The County also operates the Big Bear Animal Shelter located at 42080 North Shore Drive.

ACC works hard to find good homes for the pets it takes in. It posts photos and descriptions of adoptable pets on PetHarbor.com, and it holds regular off-site adoption events with the help of dedicated volunteers.

The Devore Shelter is also open Monday through Sunday to give people a chance to stop in and adopt animals or to search for their lost pets.



Last year, ACC found homes for 8,358 pets—an increase of nearly 1,000 from 2011. ACC also created a nonprofit entity called Animals aRe First Fund (ARFF) to raise money to bolster its adoption services.

With the help of ARFF and other partners, including the Humane Society of San Bernardino Valley, the Yucaipa Animal Placement Society, and various animal rescue groups, ACC is gearing up for the 2nd annual Homeward Bound

Mega Pet Adoption Event on June 8 and 9 at Yucaipa Regional Park. In addition to an assortment of adoptable pets, the event will feature low-cost vaccinations, micro chipping, and family friendly entertainment.

“We are all working together to place adoptable pets in new homes,” Cronin said.

ACC is also participating in the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Rachel Ray 100K Challenge, in which animal shelters compete to see who can find homes for the most pets between June 1 and August 31. Winners will receive grants that can be used to enhance adoption efforts.

Learn more by visiting www.sbcounty.gov/acc or “like” San Bernardino County Animal Care and Control on its Homeward Bound–Project Adopt Facebook page at www.facebook.com/HomewardBoundPets.

2nd District Trivia

Last Issue's Answer: Montclair was known as Monte Vista until 1958 when residents voted to change the name because there was already a city in northern California named Monte Vista.

Question: Who is credited with being the first European settler to explore what would later become known as the Big Bear Valley in 1845?

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but when network officials looked at the gruesome scenes, they were concerned it would be too much for viewers. However, they were intrigued by footage the production crew had taken at a hoarding cleanup. The network created a pilot show called “Dirty Work” and spun that into a popular documentary series called “Hoarders,” which premiered in August 2009.

“We have worked with thousands of hoarders over the years,” said Chalmers, who also created an online support group for people suffering from the compulsion at www.hoardingcleanup.com. “These people have some of the biggest hearts. They aren’t lazy. They are usually just isolated and alone.”

Much like drug addiction, hoarding sends people into a cataclysmic spiral. Their homes fill with stuff. Their loved ones don’t visit. Their embarrassment keeps them from seeking help or even household repairs. They end up using

buckets for bathrooms and space heaters in dangerously cramped living quarters.

“They just want to keep their secret safe,” Chalmers said. “Until they want to change, they are not going to change.”

Luckily, many hoarders realize their addiction and, thanks in part to the awareness raised by “Hoarders,” many of them seek professional help to overcome their compulsion.

Today, Chalmers travels around the country talking about compulsive hoarding, and he works closely with those who suffer from this often-misunderstood mental disorder. In the meantime, his business has continued to grow, including plans to begin franchising Steri-Clean, Inc. (also known as 1800hoarders.com).

“We should be able to support about 90 offices across the country,” he said. “And I thought this was just going to be a little side business.”

Upcoming Events

April 3	The Crestline Library located at 24105 Lake Gregory Drive hosts free yoga classes at noon on Wednesdays. Come stretch out your tensions at the library overlooking Lake Gregory.
April 4	The Lewis Library and Technology Center in Fontana hosts a free movie at 1 p.m. every Thursday in the Steelworkers Auditorium. The Library is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
April 5	Supervisor Janice Rutherford will host "Breakfast with Your Supervisor" with special guest Congressman Paul Cook at 7:30 a.m. at the Lake Arrowhead Resort and Spa. The breakfast costs \$15, including tax and tip. Call (909) 387-9045 or email SupervisorRutherford@sbcounty.gov to RSVP.
April 6	The Lake Arrowhead Library hosts storytime with Princess Caelia at 11 a.m. on the first Saturday of every month. This event is perfect for children ages 3 to 8. The library is located at 27235 Hwy 189.
April 6	The 4th Annual Rancho Cucamonga Animal Care and Adoption Center Furry Friends Flea Market will take place from 8 a.m. to noon at the Cucamonga Business Park located at 9650 Bus Center Drive in Rancho Cucamonga. The entrance fee is \$1. All proceeds benefit the Rancho Cucamonga Animal Care and Adoption Center. Call (909) 466-7387 for more information.
April 6	The Lewis Library and Technology Center in Fontana hosts a used book sale on the first Saturday of every month.
April 8	The Running Springs Library located at 2677 Whispering Pines Drive hosts a pre-school storytime featuring stories, songs, and crafts on Mondays at 11 a.m.
April 12	Rebuilding Together Hearts and Lives will host the Christmas in April Fundraiser from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Lake Arrowhead Country Club. Enjoy a buffet meal and a live auction. Call (909) 337-2441 for more information.
April 13	The City of Fontana will host a Veterans Health and Resource Fair from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Fontana Community Senior Center located at 16710 Ceres Avenue in Fontana. Call (951) 505-1439 for more information about this event.
April 20	The Kiwanis Club of Fontana will host the 16th Annual Special Olympics Area Meet on Saturday, April 20, 2013 at Fontana High School located at 9453 Citrus Avenue in Fontana. Opening ceremony will be at 9:00 a.m. sharp. Volunteers and sponsors are needed. For more information call Pat at (909) 829-7884.
April 26-28	The annual Upland Lemon Festival returns to downtown Upland for the 16th year. This event features food, vendors, live entertainment, and lots and lots of lemony treats! Visit www.fairplex.com/fp/events/LemonFestival/index.asp for more information.

Dates and times are subject to change without notice. Please contact Supervisor Rutherford's office at (909) 387-4833 if you have any questions or suggestions for the Events Calendar. You can view information about more local events on Supervisor Rutherford's home page at www.sbcounty.gov/rutherford.